

OpenTheo

The Uniqueness of America

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For The King - Rocky Ramsey

"The truth is, politics and morality are inseparable. And as morality's foundation is religion, religion and politics are necessarily related. We need religion as a guide; we need it because we are imperfect. And our government needs the church because only those humble enough to admit they are sinners can bring to democracy the tolerance it requires in order to survive." - Ronald Reagan

Joining me this week is Noah, a close friend of mine. He just finished his undergraduate degree in biomedical engineering and he is a follower of Christ.

<https://scholarship.law.nd.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1674&context=ndjlepp> -> a link to his full article on politics and morality in the Journal of Law, Ethics & Public Policy

<https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-slavery-idUSL1561464920070322> -> Chronology of slave abolishment

<https://wallbuilders.com/americas-exceptional-history-of-anti-slavery/> -> PLEASE READ THIS

<https://jewishjournal.com/commentary/opinion/321762/anti-slavery-was-built-into-the-american-founding/> -> PLEASE READ THIS

Exodus 21 is a chapter about slaves rights

Leviticus 25:39-42 | "If your brother with you becomes so poor that he sells himself to you, you are not to make him serve like a bond slave. Instead, he is to serve with you like a hired servant

1 Timothy 1:9-10 We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for the sexually immoral, for those practicing homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine.

The bible is clear slavery is evil and wrong.

<https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration-transcript>

<https://constitution.congress.gov/constitution/>

If you haven't read the declaration of independence or the constitution, I encourage you to read it and consider how its finds its basic ethic and political philosophy in the Christian faith and God's word

Wonky Wednesday Episode #2

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Website coming soon!

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Transcript

Hey everybody, this is going to be a quick preface to this episode about the uniqueness of America. I just wanted to say thanks again so much for supporting the podcast and just helping your fellow brother in Christ out to proclaim the gospel, to share the good news, to share a biblical worldview of who God is and what his word says and what we should know about him and what we should know about us and our own sin and depravity that we need to save here. So I appreciate the support so much.

Please keep supporting me if you guys find the content. God honoring and worth listening to. I wanted to celebrate that we surpassed 250 all-time listens.

So that's a quarter of the way to four digits. So thank you so much guys for all that support. And we also have over 10 ratings on the Apple podcast.

So I'm just overjoyed with all that that the Lord seems to be blessing it. And you guys are being faithful on your end too just to support me. So I just appreciate it so much guys.

And I just wanted to say thanks and that I hope that the Lord is continuing to be glorified and that this would continue to only grow and proportional that through the content being God honoring and accurate and correct and off the above. So appreciate it guys. Enjoy this episode about the uniqueness of America with my friend Noah.

Real quick note about the upcoming content. I misspoke and said that America was the first country to put any legislation towards the abolishment of slavery. That's actually false.

In 1833, Great Britain actually had a partial legislation against slavery and the

abolishment of slavery. America was the first to fully through the 14th Amendment abolish slavery completely. So that actually is accurate and something worth being celebrated.

And there are other people besides Paul the Apostle that wrote against slavery and then also having rights afforded in the Old Testament towards slaves. But overall, the Christian ethic is the source of anti-slavery rhetoric throughout history. You know, the Judeo-Christian tradition.

And that is true and accurate. So keep that in mind as well. Hello for the King listeners.

This is Rocky, your guy Rocky. And I'm here with some guy. What's your name, dude? I'm going to go by Noah.

Oh, he goes by Noah. Oh, I think you're on that one podcast, that super cool podcast that they talked about aliens and it was like funny. And one guy said he encountered an alien.

Were you on that podcast? A lot of people have been talking about it. It's blown up online. Well, now it's just me and you and all the other guys are gone.

But I think we got some stuff we want to talk about. What are we talking about today? I think we talked before this about speaking about America. The country.

Here's an interesting question I've been hearing. Is America a country with borders or is it an idea? Is it an ideal? What do you think about that? Well, there's definitely a country. Yeah.

It's an odd question. Yeah. Yeah.

There are a lot of ideals that are definitely synonymous with America. Yeah. It's the idea that America is basically 50 individual countries united under one flag.

And then we all share the common ideals of God given rights, direct to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. And that makes it special. Oh, yeah.

I mean, every other country in the world, none of them have law that's based solely on biblical principles and idea that Jesus is the only king. Yeah. America's the most free country in the world.

That's true. There's never been a nation before America where the citizen was considered king. It's always been the government has been the ruler.

Yeah. It's such a odd thing to think about. Like all throughout human history, it was always the monarch or the ruling party that had autonomy that was able to, you know, pursue those things that you listed off the life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Before it was like Pharaoh or the king, he was the only one that was able to determine what makes you happy. You have to do these things and you have to pay this tax and you have to live this way and follow this religion. You know, he was the only one that could change his religion all willy-nilly and other people would follow suit or he's the only one that could change what was the dominant technology or whatever, or go to war.

He decides when they go to war and all this stuff. But now, you know, we live in a country that like we get in a way decide when we go to war, when we want to go to war, or what religion, freedom of religion, freedom of press, freedom of speech, all that stuff. Historically, it was the ruler, the ruling parties that had that power and now each individual in America, you know, has that power.

And I know it's all, I think it's rooted in like British common law, which also comes from Christianity and the Bible. But I don't even think under British common law, there was still a monarch and there were still, they elected officials for their parliament, but it wasn't, there wasn't rights afforded the individual on the level that we see in America. And I think they were still subject to the king.

Yeah, exactly. Yeah. Well, and that was the whole issue with the Puritans and the Covenanters and all them.

They were, Britain said the king of the, the king of the church is the monarch. The king of Great Britain was the king of the church. And they said, no, Jesus is the king of the church.

And then they persecuted them. So you still, that is why we have freedom of religion because the people that founded this country, like the Puritans and, you know, the pilgrims were Christians. And the reason they wanted those freedoms was so nobody could ever again say the king of the church is the state, you know, and we're kind of seeing some people kind of revert back into that, that the state can tell the church what to do nowadays.

And it's sad. Yeah, it is sad. The churches should be exercising their rights and the government should be more subject to the church if anything.

Yeah, my brother sent me this week, a quote by Ronald Reagan, and he basically says, you can go look up the quote for yourself. I can't quote it verbatim, but he says, because politics is concerned about morality and morality comes from religion, politics and religion are actually inextricably connected necessarily. And religion informs politics.

So I think the whole separation of church and state really doesn't make sense in my mind. The way people talk about it, the way our founding fathers thought about separation of church and state wasn't really how a lot of Christians nowadays think about it, that Christians should never engage in politics or. Yeah, that's something I would like

to learn more about just what is the biblical principle on how Christians should act in the country that they're living in.

Yeah. Because if you look at the life of Christ, I mean, you know, he followed the Jewish customs, paid the Roman tax, apparently. He obviously stood up against the government authority in a lot of ways because they were corrupt and unjust and they were basically defiling the law of God.

And, you know, it's it's up to the godly person to rectify those injustices. True. So let's get back to America.

What other things about America make it great? What do you think? What other things make it unique and worth preserving and fighting for or not? Just giving up on it, on the culture and. I would say it is, and I already mentioned, it's the freest place in the whole world. This idea of the American dream has become, I don't know what it's like, what it's turned into.

Like now when people think of the American dream, they think of like having a family, having a job and living the American life, whatever that means. But, you know, like our founding fathers had all those things. They were very wealthy.

They had large families, whatever. They were very well off, very honored by the society, but they chose to pursue freedom and liberty rather than, you know, the simple pleasures of life. And they realized that it's more important to secure a future for your children, free of slavery, free of tyranny than to endure and dare tyranny during their lifetime.

I mean, if you read Common Sense by Thomas Paine, he points out pretty clearly that, you know, people are very willing to suffer wrongdoing just because it's hard to stand up against something like that and it takes a lot of work. It takes a lot of sacrifice, time, resources. You know, you could die for a cause like that.

But I'd say, bifocally, that's something worth dying for. Yeah. In Proverbs 31, we're told to protect the rights of the poor and needy.

Yeah. Amen. Yeah.

America. Yeah. I'd say more than anything, it's the Constitution that sets America apart from every other nation.

Yeah. It's special. The whole, the document itself is built on a foundation of like a Christian ethic, first of all, but then endowed by their creator, you know, and even from the get go, I think, I don't know who said, I think Thomas Jefferson or John Quincy Adams said like, the Constitution is made for a wholly religious people.

It's not made for an unreligious people. Yeah. It's like, it's not a document that is going to be upheld by an atheist, a secular humanist, anybody that believes in evolution, macro evolution, where we came from is not from God, but from unguided processes in the material realm, you know, like just a foolish thing to think.

But if for any of those people in our society, the Constitution, frankly, is not for them. They, they're going to be blessed by the rights that it ensures. But like, they're, they can't, like, they can benefit from it, obviously, and get the value from it, living in the society, but that they don't have a foundation to understand it nor to have any reason to want to uphold it.

Yeah. And they're protected by that document to do and say the things that they do. Yeah.

Yeah. Free speech is a precious thing. I mean, yeah, it's foundational.

It is. And there's like, there's a huge attack on free speech right now. I mean, everybody gets offended in our culture by whatever you say, but freedom of speech is something our founders thought was so important to add.

And it is, it's so unique to be able to say and express yourself however you wish. And for the Christian, that's crucial. But also for the non-Christian, like when they went to express their thoughts, we as Christians shouldn't advocate that they should obviously we know they're wrong and they're faulty in their thinking.

But freedom of speech, I would, I would uphold like I think Voltaire said that he was a philosopher in Great Britain, but he said like, basically, I would die, like, I hate what you're saying. And I disagree with what you're saying, but I would die for you to have the right to say that. Yeah.

Even though what you're saying is, I think that was Voltaire. Someone in Britain, somebody said before, not John Locke, I know it's not John Locke, but it's somebody from that era. I think it was Voltaire.

But I think that's a wonderful quote. Like it's important to I would fight for somebody else's freedom to practice Islam, you know, to do with what they're conscious. Now, obviously, I don't think, what did they call their God again? Oh, yeah.

I mean, I don't think Allah is the true God by any means, but their right to be able to express themselves is that's important. I would say free speech is somewhat synonymous with freedom of thought. Yeah.

Try to control somebody's speech, what they say. Yeah. In a roundabout way, you're controlling how they think.

Exactly. I would love to do a podcast at one point about 1984. And there's a whole, it's really interesting, but they basically dumb down the vocabulary because if you can constrict the vocabulary, the words, freedom of speech, if you can constrict that, then you can constrict thought because you think in words, you express yourself in words and you won't be able to basically create a logical and rational thought if you can't have the words and vocab to build it up.

And we do also see that in our society right now too, compelled speech and forcing somebody to speak a certain way or calling something hate speech that isn't hate speech. Yeah. And it's so hard to legislate something like that because I know the hate speech is so arbitrary.

Yeah. Anything could be considered hate speech based on legal definition. Yeah.

It's all based in a Christian ethic, like what you call hateful, like me sharing the gospel for you to you, somebody could call that hateful. Yeah. And that's not, like, that's just not correct to have that kind of rhetoric of hate speech, just calling something you don't like hate speech.

I do. Do you think there's a proper place for hate speech? Proper place for hate. Like what about something I know it's like, example, people always say is yelling fire in a crowded place.

You're not allowed to do that. That's against the law. Yeah.

And you can't threaten anybody with violence. And you can't threaten anybody with violence and you can't threaten insurrection against the state or like treason, stuff like that. Yeah, that makes sense.

Yeah, exactly. So I think there are, yeah. So I think we're in agreement and I think the founding fathers would agree too.

Like there's, there's an element of, there is speech that is off limits. Rational and logic, but yeah, exactly. Yeah.

But when you marginalize a group based on their free speech where you can't say that this group likes to say this thing, such as the gospel for Christians, this group likes to say the gospel, the gospel hate speech. Therefore you can only say hate speech that that is not based on logic and reason. That's just a, like an emotional, like somebody's emotional, like reaction to something and then they want it legislated.

I want my, my emotions legislated. Like that's ridiculous. Yeah.

We're not supposed to make laws and stuff based on transient causes. I mean, the laws should be based on the natural law of God, which was set up at creation. Those laws

don't ever change, not transient.

So yeah, that's what we should base our laws on. Yeah. Yeah.

And natural laws can be accessed by anyone. These, we hold these truths, these truths to be self-evident. You don't need to go anywhere or learn anything to understand that humans have rights and they're special and they should be treated with dignity and honor.

And they should have the ability to pursue life, liberty, and happiness. Right. That is controlled by anybody else.

Yeah. And that does make America very unique that all individuals are like that. And it makes it, it's very hard to fathom how slavery was a thing in the U S with, with like a thought like that.

The fact that you think that way, all humans are like that. And it's like, how did that, how was that allowed to happen? So praise God, he eventually judged this country through a war and emancipation proclamation. It was eradicated.

Yeah. 14th amendment. But yeah, it's interesting.

It took so long. Yeah. Well, slavery is horrendous.

I mean, it is a great evil in this world. Humans have been enslaved for so long. Every single people group has been enslaved at some point.

Um, by no means is that good. But I think when we look at history and we look at, you know, our founding fathers are looking at what's this country was built on. You can't just tear everything down.

You can't just forget some of the good parts of what this country was founded on. You know, people want to reduce it to, oh, there's a slavery and then tunnel vision on that. Like, yes, everybody agrees that was evil and horrendous, but you can't like, I mean, first of all, it's on a presupposition that they're perfectly fine.

They're not doing anything evil that they would look back and think was evil in their own life. You know, everybody does evil things that they are blind to if God does not open their eyes to it. So people that look back on that time and say this, this, and this or whatever, um, if you've ever seen the Stanford prison experiment, have you seen that movie? No, I've heard.

Yeah. Basically the experiment showed that give somebody power over another human and they're going to take it and run with it and treat that human like crap. Every human has a, every human has fallen, you know, we've fallen short of the glory of God.

So we all have this proclivity inside of us to do super evil things to our fellow man. So there's kind of a pride and arrogance there when people are like, I can't believe they were doing slavery and like everything. They were just so evil people.

Why would we want to, I've heard people all the time. It's like, why would I want to go back to 1800 America? There was slavery there. It's the worst thing in the world.

I mean, sure. There's evil things then, but guess what? The people that usually argue that are on the left and they kill babies, they remember right out of the womb. I mean, that's a pretty blatant, easy to see evil in this present time.

And they talk like America was built on slavery and everybody was evil back then. And we're progressing and we're getting past, you know, like this embedded slave, like racism in our country. And it's like 100%, like we're getting over like cultural racism.

There's still white people that are super racist and black people that are super racist and all sorts of stuff like that. But it's just, you can't forget that this country is super special in terms of human history. And when you put it in, sorry, just one more, one more thought that I think is wonderful.

The first country to ever put into legislation, anti-slavery legislation is America. It's the first country to ever do that. Every country all throughout human history has always been fine with slavery.

It's been a part of human history for many years. You're getting your friends blowing up. I just think that's special actually.

We should celebrate that. Okay, every other country was plagued with slavery. This country was plagued with slavery at the beginning, but we, God like in His grace, gave us the insight to finally see that that was evil.

I mean, the Africans were selling Africans to us. They were enslaving their own people too. Like they were no better than us at that time period.

Everybody's the same in the world, but God has through the Christian ethic and the scriptures has delivered us from that kind of thinking. I just think that's actually wonderful and something that is praiseworthy in America, that the first country to ever put into legislation that slavery is evil is America. America.

Yeah. I mean, it's actually really special. And the first person to ever write against slavery is Paul.

I think Paul the Apostle. Never. No, I imagine somebody else did.

It was also in the Old Testament. There's don't treat slaves bad and you should set them free after a certain amount of time. It's also bond servants.

It's not like slavery. Like we think it's bond servant, which is you get paid. It's not like a slavery.

Yeah. Yeah. You're getting paid for something.

It's not just free labor. A bond servant is being helped this at the same time that they're enslaved. Yeah.

And it's voluntary. They come up and say, listen, my life's falling apart. That's how bond servants worked in the time of the Hebrews.

They would say, I'm dying. I don't have enough money to provide my family. You're a wealthy person.

Can I work for you so I can at least not die? And then they would be enslaved to them. I think sometimes they would have slaves from other nations though, but the law still protected those people. Yeah.

And I think Exodus, I want to say 22, maybe 32. I don't remember. Anyway.

And as God's given a lot of Moses, he mentions like the regulations of slavery. He says, if you knock your servants tooth out, he should be set free for his tooth. Or if you take his eye out, he should be set free for his eye.

So yeah, it's just interesting to see God is valuing these people. And if they sustain an injury wrongfully, that they're like physically, permanently harmed. They gained their freedom for that.

Yeah. That's interesting. That's weird.

Rights for slaves. Who was the first to come up with that? The Jews given divine revelation by Yahweh. They just want to piggyback on all these things that come from Christianity.

These ethical things like the first society to ever give rights to slaves were the Jews. Instead of no other ancient writing, you can go look it up. No other ancient writing affords rights to the slave.

They were treated like crap all throughout human history. Yeah. And then Paul talks about don't like, don't enslave people.

Like that's evil. Yeah. I think.

Have you heard the number of something like 70%, maybe more of the society in Rome were slaves. Really? Wow. Yeah.

It was a majority. That's crazy. So many slaves to free people ratio.

That's crazy. Nowadays, I don't know what the percentage is. Yeah.

There is a sad amount of child and sex slavery still happening in the world. And real slavery still happens. Like I guess conventional slavery, not real slavery, because sex and child slavery is still slavery.

I guess I'm just saying conventional slavery. But what else about America makes it unique and special and worth fighting for and not completely evil and the worst country to ever walk the face of the earth as some people would like to propose. I mean, I would just go back to the constitution.

I think the way the government was set up with the checks and balances. Yeah, that's special. It was very wise.

I mean, we could talk about America nowadays versus how it was originally conceived. And then you can go back to the idea of America either being a country or an ideal. The ideal was realized in the 1800s for sure.

It isn't, it's not realized anymore. Unfortunately, America is a once great nation. But because we still have the constitution, I still see potential for America in the future.

I mean, I think people just need to be more educated about their rights, me and you included. We need to hold our government officials in check. You know, a lot of the problems today in America stem from complacency of American citizens.

Yeah, I think we just don't realize the importance of us as individuals being the kings of America and trying to let somebody else, a human God, or namely a politician, run everything for us and basically just give us a womb to live in who will give us food and tuck us into bed at night. Yeah. So we think there's notion.

Yeah, it's not what we need. We need liberty, we need freedom. And God has provided all the means to do that.

It's just up to us to work for it. Yeah. Yeah, we need to repent and turn back to the king, put Jesus back.

He is king obviously over America, but like realize he's king again. Yeah. It's not about like these political parties.

The president has very little power in reality. Yeah. Yeah.

I agree. And I don't know where Noah's at, but I know I don't subscribe to either political party. I wouldn't consider myself at either camp.

I'm fundamentally at base level of Christian. That's who I am. My rights, my economic model, all of the above is what the word of God would inform me to think.

And I don't consider myself a conservative Republican or liberal Democrat or on either end of the spectrum, maybe answering certain questions about morality and ethics and stuff like that might push me to a more conservative value, but I'm not a part of that party. That makes sense. And even that group.

So I don't know if you want to comment on that. That's something that's hurt America, I think. Oh yeah.

And we agree. It's very divisive, divisive. Yeah.

It's putting up into two parties who are becoming increasingly polarized. Yeah, that hurts things. Yeah.

Like there are radicals on both sides. And that actually was present from the beginning of America. There were the Whigs, the conservative, there were the traditional Republicans.

And then after the Whigs came, the Democrats in like the mid 19th century. It kind of makes sense. Like if you want to get into power, like you need to basically join with other groups and the largest group is going to have the most advantage.

Yeah. But I do, there is a founding father. I don't know which one said this, but George Washington talks about, do not form a two party system that will cause problems for the country.

And obviously we did that even from the get go. This isn't a newer thing, but obviously we see how it's culminated and led up to what we see now in our country. So obviously it was a slow working thing, but it has been so polarized now.

I don't know what study it is, but I heard that. I don't know who told me, but they would ask parents from either political party in the sixties, they did a poll and they said, what if your kid dated somebody that was of the other political party? So they asked a liberal, what if they did it like a Republican or whatever? And they were like, I think it was like 20% of the people were like perfectly fine with it. They were like, Oh, that doesn't bother me at all.

Like that's perfectly fine because the parties were very similar. So they weren't that polarizing like different in their morality and thought in the way they would handle things. But then now, I think they did the same poll in like two, 2010, something like that.

And it was like 70 to 80% of people said, I would be furious. They should never date a liberal. They should never date a conservative or whatever.

And yeah, it's just so polarized now and it's tearing things apart. Yeah. Kind of.

It's no compromise. It's harder to compromise the further apart you get. Yeah.

You have some insight about how people on either side of the party view people on the opposite side of the party. I know like this isn't a universal statement. There are definitely people who, I kind of want some trends with that.

Like they're understanding of different ideals and they're not aggressive or hostile toward ideas that they don't hear very often maybe or ideas that they don't like because there are a lot of people who are like that, which is sad. I mean, that is part of living in America being open to hear any idea and any opinion. Interestingly, colleges are becoming increasingly liberal and colleges used to be known as places of free thinking and new ideas, whatever.

But now they're- It's politicized. Public education is politicized now, unfortunately. It's not just about education.

No. It's not. No.

Well, they changed history class and they now call it social studies. That's a big tell for me that they would change the actual content and nature of the class from purely history, straight facts, to now social studies. There's a spin on it.

It's studying from a social perspective how history is unfolded. That would lead one to leave certain things out about history. Yeah.

You're being forced to view it with a specific lens. Yeah. I mean, we didn't really- When you think about it, Noah, because Noah and I went to the same high school, we were in the same grade.

I don't know if you took APS, AP- or not APS, APU-APush. That's what they call it, APUS history. I didn't take that.

Yeah. Well, I do remember taking a history class, like history classes. I didn't hear any rhetoric against communism, against Soviet Russia.

I didn't learn anything about that. I didn't learn about World War II and Nazism and Stalin killing 40 and 50 million of his own people. I didn't hear anything about Tiananmen Square and Mao Zedong.

You don't hear anything in world history about the dangerous ideas circulating in the world of communism and atheism and all that stuff. They'll actually teach it. They won't teach you communism, but they'll teach you atheism and they'll teach you evolution and all sorts of- I think all these ideas, but they don't point out the dangers of them.

Exactly. Yeah. Because I vaguely remember learning about agnosticism and communism, stuff like the Red Scare.

Sure. They'll give you the terms, but I guess what I'm saying is they don't tell you the true history of how it unfolded. Because I don't remember learning about the death tolls.

I remember learning about the Holocaust, but nothing about Mao Zedong and Joseph Stalin. They killed many more people. Yeah.

They leave out the impact of the ideals that were prominent during that. Yeah, exactly. Yeah.

That has hurt America, but the education system that America was founded on was great. Each person is allowed to pursue education and their own freedom of expression and all that stuff. Yeah.

America's always had a very high literacy rate. Yeah. I guess another thing I wanted to talk about how cool and great America is, one thing that makes it unique and worth preserving is the affluence in America.

You don't have to worry about water or food or paying jobs. I mean, if you make above like 30,000 a year in America, you are in the top 10% of the world. I mean, you are very rich comparatively to the rest of the world.

Just by being virtually impoverished in America, you're very rich. That is a special thing, like getting rid of human suffering and that way through just basic things like food, water, shelter, clothing, being comfortable in that sense. I think it's obviously a danger because it can lead Christians to be.

It can lead Christians away from the truth by being comfortable like that and forgetting about God. Then it also leaves the atheist or somebody that maybe is not inclined to believe in God less prone to consider themselves, consider their own humanity and that stuff. But we do see an epidemic in America of lostness and depression, suicide, things like that.

That seems to be a privilege of first world countries, suicide rates and depression and things like that, diagnoses of those things. I think that is a product of the lack of teaching about Jesus Christ in our country. - Yeah, you're not alone.

The root of the problem is a spiritual problem. - Yeah. - In Christ's answer.

- Yeah. I do think that is a benefit of America's, the wealth and the affluence. - Yeah.

- It's important. - I think Paul Washer say he thinks it's harder to be an American. It's hard to be Christian in America than in any other country, personally for the reasons he just mentioned.

- Exactly. It can leave you so comfortable and we're not supposed to be comfort and complicit in our Christianity. - Yeah.

We should be self-disciplined. - Yes. - Yeah.

It's like America needs as much missionary work as any other country at this point. - Yeah, exactly. See, I guess that's the reason for this episode.

Why is it worth preserving and fighting for and all that stuff? As Christians, we always talk about world missions and sending people and that is so important. And if you're called to be a missionary elsewhere and you have a heart for a certain people group that do not know the good news of Jesus Christ, then like by all means, that's God's calling on your life. But I think we need to remember as Christians that yes, we can support missionaries financially.

We can do these things, but we go to work every day and we interact with pagans. We interact with people that do not know. Like they're going to hell.

I mean, when you look at somebody, just imagine them tormenting and anguishing every single day for an infinity. Here's the thing, you can't imagine that. It's the worst pain anybody could ever encounter.

And like, we just need to remember as Christians in America that not everybody is just a Christian. Like we think that this is like a Christian nation. It's not folks.

It's not a Christian nation. It's just not. - It was founded, I think.

- It was. - Pretty much everybody was a Christian in America. - Yeah.

A genuine. Yeah. There were a lot of Christians in America and it's just not the case anymore.

And the gates of hell will not prevail against the church, which is why we should remember that we can in a sense go out and evangelize successfully America. We can go out and evangelize people. We can... - Not be arrested.

- And not be arrested. Yeah. That's a privilege.

- That's what I'm saying. - Yeah. There's people that go to other countries to share their gospel with people that don't know Jesus and they risk getting arrested.

Yet we go to work every day and interact with people around us and we don't share the gospel. Or one thing that was convicted of me, before this blizzard we just had, I went to Kroger to buy some groceries before the blizzard came. And I was thinking, I'm like, "Okay, there's a super long line.

Who can I talk to and share the gospel with?" Right when I was thinking that some old man came up and started talking to me about the blizzard of 2000 and whatever and how this is similar and everybody's out today. And we ended up in public. Everybody was

listening to our conversation.

I could hear everybody tuning in. And I was talking about God and how we abandoned the Bible and that American used to repent. And he was like agreeing with me.

He actually turned out to be like, it seems like he was a Christian and he talked about the watchmaker argument. He's like, "If you look at a watch, you can tell there's a designer." Well, look at this world. There's totally a designer.

And we're like in the middle of Kroger doing this. And it was like a great conversation. And you can talk to a random person like that in line and it not be weird.

Everybody was tuning in. There was a mom in the background with her kid and she was like, "Not in her head, yes." People are craving this. People want to hear people talk about God and love God again.

It's okay. People will nod along with you. They're not out there just to... There are people obviously that are going to fight you and they're in the domain of Satan and they're going to... They're not like you're in the gospel.

Obviously you'll get pushed back, but I'm just saying there's a lot more people than you think. They're left wanting. They want to hear the gospel.

And people did that in this country. And initially they were missionaries that came over and they were good men and women that loved God. But we abandoned that mostly.

Yeah. Thankfully God always has a remnant by his grace. Yeah, exactly.

Yeah. He never forsakes his people fully. He's always a remnant.

Always a remnant. Okay. So what did we hit? We have the constitution, the rights afforded to us by God ensured by the American constitution.

That's a blessing. We have abolished some evils that have been here. They're all throughout human history.

We have high degree of affluence in this country. We are able to share the gospel and express ourselves freely. These are all blessings from God that God's given us in this country and have reasons it's worth fighting for.

Did I miss anything? Big ideas we talked about. Nothing we can think of. Yeah.

We think those are really important. Noah and I are very, I think we think very similar on this. Noah actually turned me on to realizing some of the things we take for granted as Christians in America.

It's an important perspective to have to be thankful for what you've been given and to

not just look at the worst 24/7 in something. But America has some things that are very unique that God's given us. Good gifts.

Anything else we should add? Anything you want to say? I guess I want to reiterate the significance of the rights that we have given us by God. Government has instituted for the purpose of protecting those rights. In America, we have a good precedent set for us by the founding fathers that it is easy to suffer evils, but for the sake of future generations, for the sake of our children, our families, whatever you care about, you need liberty.

I mean, liberty is very important. America and liberty. Jesus came to set us free.

It's a right been given us by the government, but it is from God to be free, to get from God. No humans meant to rule over another. Yes, exactly.

Yeah. The greatest sin of Israel and the ask for it. Yeah, exactly.

That is to be reiterated. Government, it's a necessary evil, like Noah was saying, to ensure rights. It is a necessary evil.

We have, like I've heard a lot of theologians and political philosophers say, society is a gift from God. Society is important and it's good. Society is what humans are congregating together correctly and loving one another.

Society is what you imagine, what you want to build. You want to build a society. Government has always been thought of throughout human history as a necessary evil because it has such a great power for corruption and great evils.

That's why it's always thought of as a necessary evil because you need to have, when society is not upheld, when people start doing evil things, society breaks down. Government is that restrainer that got us put in place like in Romans 13. They bear the sword, not in vain.

It's for your good, but governments can also turn very, very evil and not bear that sword for the good. They can bear it for evil and that is when they're rejected by God, first of all. That's not an authority from God.

That's a false authority when a government turns into that. So that is why we threw off the yoke of Great Britain when we did in the Revolutionary War. - Thankfully.

- Thankfully. - We've had all these slaves right now. - Yeah.

Who knows what could have, the oppression and the taxation was, it was just increasing, increasing. It doesn't know, we don't know where it could have ended up, but they were oppressive. So God, we know that the people groan when wicked rulers rule and like Noah said, Proverbs 31, a good king protects the rights of the poor and if you're a bad

king, God may ordain that you be put there, but that does not mean that you have authority from God to be doing, you know, to me it's similar to Satan.

Satan obviously has been given authority from God to do some of the things he does. Does that mean that God approves or God loves Satan or God? - Wants his people to be subject. - Yeah, wants his people to be subject to Satan.

No. So if there's an evil authority, you know, God's people are to throw off that yoke of evilness, right? And it's mainly, primarily through the means of proclaiming the gospel. That is the way Christians do it.

But it can also come to a Revolutionary War if they start, you know, killing us, like, you know, like in the Boston Massacre and there's events that led up to the Revolutionary War. They were killing colonists and then it was, they were responding, right? They were defending themselves. You have a right to defend yourself.

So we just want to reiterate that about America, that the individual has power, right? And we're able to vote and to do things to take off that yoke of evilness, evil rulers. There's a lot of avenues for that, proclaiming the gospel, voting different people in, things like that. But there can also come a time to fight, obviously.

And we'll probably do future episodes where we can flesh some of that out, like looking to Romans 13 and 1 Peter 2 and all those texts. And we like get down on the nitty gritty of what those mean for us as Christians in America. Yeah, thank you.

Cool. So yeah, guys, America is a wonderful country. It's not the evil that a lot of people would make you think it is.

It's very unique throughout human history. We hope that we've displayed that in its uniqueness, relies wholly in Jesus Christ and God's work and the Holy Spirit working in his people and creating the country of America. This is God's country, obviously.

It was founded on Jesus Christ being the King. I mean, it's very unique. So it's worth fighting for.

And we are very blessed to live here. So don't forget that. And maybe go to bed tonight thanking God that you were born in such a time as this.

Yeah. Any last thoughts? No, I got nothing. Okay, cool.

That was a fun conversation. Well, Noah and I love you guys. Thanks so much for listening.

We hope that this blessed you and gave you some cool things to think about. Please send me an email at for the King podcast at gmail.com. If you have any anything that you disagree with, the way we talked about something or you don't think a master of the

scripture or what was said at the end there about Romans 13 and 1 Peter 2, things like that, whatever, whatever you guys want to interact with. We would love to hear your feedback.

And if you have a question specifically for Noah, I will obviously get the message to him and you guys can interact with him as well. So thanks so much for listening. We pray that God is glorified, that Jesus Christ is known as the King and that we are doing all this for the King, obviously.

So we love you guys. Thanks for listening. This is the for the podcast with Rocky and Noah.

Peace.